

**Southwestern Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference
April 16, 2014**

Present: Steve Fearn, Vice-President† J.R. Ford† Preston Goetzke†
Rusty Hinger† Monte Naslund† Jenny Russell†
Doug Stowe†

Absent: John Porter, President Bob Wolff, Secretary-Treasurer Fred Kroeger, Emeritus

Staff: Bruce Whitehead, SWCD Executive Director
Laura Spann, SWCD Office Manager
Steve Harris, Harris Water Engineering
Adam Reeves, Maynes, Bradford, Shipps & Sheftel (MBSS)

Guests: Jimbo Buickerood, San Juan Citizens Alliance
Darlene Marcus, Field Rep. For Congressman Scott Tipton†
John Taylor, Former SWCD Board Member†

†Participated by phone.

Vice-President Steve Fearn called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

Questions/Comments from Audience

John Taylor provided background on Crowley Reservoir, a privately-owned project located in New Mexico. The reservoir, which supplies water to many irrigators near Chromo, Colorado, has been declared out of compliance by the New Mexico State Engineer's Office. The San Juan Conservation District may bring a grant request in support of Crowley Reservoir before the SWCD board in June, and before the Southwest Basin Roundtable in May. Steve Harris recommended John contact Craig Godbout, CWCB Liaison to the Roundtable, to determine whether or not state funds can go to a reservoir located in New Mexico, even though it supplies water users in Colorado.

New Business

Legislative Update & Position on Bills

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met on March 31 and April 7 to discuss water-related legislation. Bruce Whitehead explained the bills and relayed CWC discussion to the board. He referenced the most recent Legislative Report: #2014-11. The following bills were discussed:

SB 017 – Limit Use of Ag Water for Lawn Irrigation

This bill was signed into law on April 11. The Interim Water Resources Committee will continue discussions on lawn conservation during the summer.

SB 145 – Water Conservation Incentives

This bill will likely be postponed indefinitely, as the issues on which it was meant to prompt discussion will be addressed in relation to SB 017.

SB 023 – Transfer Water Efficiency Savings to Instream Use

CWC and SWCD support the bill, while the Colorado River Water Conservation District and Farm Bureau oppose the bill. Bruce testified before the House Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee on March 31. The bill has not yet gone to a vote.

SB 171- New Energy District Finance Water Conservation

This bill would allow the Colorado new energy improvement district to arrange financing for the installation of energy efficiency improvements in residences and commercial buildings. CWC voted to support this bill.

SB 179 – Flood Debris Cleanup Grants

This bill would create a flood debris cleanup grant account with an appropriation of \$5 million. CWC voted to support this bill.

HB 1332 – South Platte River Basin Water Management

CWC voted to oppose the bill, and SWCD abstained. The bill is currently in committee.

SB 188 – Species Conservation Trust Fund

This bill, introduced this week and not yet discussed by CWC, would appropriate funding for programs designed to conserve threatened or endangered native species.

SB 195 – South Platte River Phreatophyte Growth Study

This bill, introduced this week and not yet discussed by CWC, would direct the Colorado Water Conservation Board to evaluate the growth of phreatophytes (deep-rooted plants that absorb water from the water table) along the South Platte River.

SB 192 – Regulating Radioactive Materials

This bill, introduced this week and not yet discussed by CWC, would amend current requirements for licensed radioactive materials facilities.

Initiative #103 – State’s Duties with Public Trust Doctrine to Secure Rights to Protect Natural Resources

The initiative was set for a hearing before the Title Board on April 16. CWC and SWCD oppose the initiative.

Initiative #115 – Environmental Rights

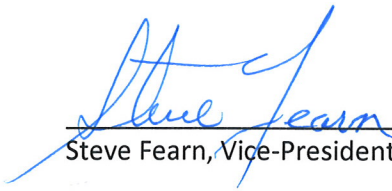
The initiative was set for a hearing before the Title Board on April 16. CWC and SWCD oppose the initiative.

Next Meetings

Wednesday, April 30	9:00am	Teleconference
Wednesday, May 14	9:00am	Teleconference
Wednesday, June 11	10:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 13	10:00am	Special Regular Board Meeting

Adjournment

Vice-President Steve Fearn adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.



Steve Fearn, Vice-President